auction, thus depriving them of the fruits of their labours. The truth of the statement would be clear, if an enquiry was instituted by an impartial and conscientious officer into the following points:—

(*a*) the number of applications from the depressed classes for registry of land, presented in the Taluk, Division and Huzur Offices;

(*b*) the total area of the land involved in the applications;

(*c*) area the registry of which had been sanctioned;

(*d*) area actually registered under the G. O.;

(*e*) area sanctioned to be registered in their names but subsequently sold in auction to others;

(*f*) area in respect of which applications had been rejected; and

(*g*) reasons for such rejection in individual cases.

The Member then gave specific particulars of lands for which members of his community had applied, and on some of which they had entered and made improvements in the hope of getting them eventually assigned in their favour. He next requested that a portion of the Kalaketti Reserve in the Minachil taluk be disafforested for registry in the names of depressed classes. The majority of the applicants in the Peermade, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha taluks had been disappointed owing to the considerable delay in the disposal of the applications. The extent of the lands granted in the Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks was small, though the number of applications was large and as many as 240 applications were sent on the 22nd Makaram 1094. The lands in those taluks from which trees had been removed were being entered upon by rich and influential men from the other communities. Arrangements should be made for granting such lands to the depressed classes. Portions of grazing grounds and other poramboke lands should be assigned to them in the taluks and pakuthies where unoccupied tharisu lands were not available for registry in their names. Such grounds and *kari* lands were available in Vadayar, Manjadikara, Prakad, Vetchur and Kaipazha pakuthies, near the Cochin-Travancore frontier and in the Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara taluks. Some of those grazing grounds contained occupation and did not require reservation. For the habitation of the workmen in the Kuttanad punja lands, the banks of backwaters, canals, etc., should be assigned. Government should declare that, when all the applicants for one piece of land were members of a depressed class, the land should be granted to the earliest applicant, and that when people belonging to different communities had applied for the same land, it should be granted to the applicant who belonged to any of the depressed classes. Lists of available lands throughout the State should be prepared, the blocks to be assigned to converts, etc., should be specified, copies of the lists should be given to the leaders of the several depressed classes, and orders should be issued for applications for such lands being disposed of and possession given within a specified time. Lands for which Pulayas, Parayas, etc., were applicants should not be put up to auction, and sympathetic officers should be appointed in each taluk to deal with their applications for lands.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be considered. In regard to pending applications, the local officers will look into them and see that they are promptly disposed of. The Efficiency Audit Officer will also see that prompt disposal.

12. Registry of puduval lands in the names of the depressed classes, Parayas, Pulayas, &c. without tharavila.

Mr. Yohannan Yohannan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government on behalf of himself and his community for nominating him to the Assembly. Parayas, Pulayas, &c. had embraced the Christian religion with a view to their eternal salvation. It was, however, a mistake to suppose that all Christians belonged to one community. It was sub-divided, according to the caste from which they were converted, into sects without inter-dining and inter-marriage. All of them should, therefore, be treated on a like footing in the grant of concessions.

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Those who were in the lower ranks of the community required special help and encouragement. His community was in a very backward state from an educational and economic point of view, as compared with other Christians and deserved and stood in need of special help from Government. They were the original inhabitants of the land who brought it under cultivation. At one time, they were slaves and did not realise the value of land. Now, in their efforts to secure land of their own, they were thwarted by the rich and influential communities, who dispossesed them on some ground or other or bid land in auction. The Member prayed for the following concessions to his community:—

(1) No land should be assigned to members of other communities until all members of his community had been granted land.

(2) A census of the landless men of his community should be taken and plots varying from 2 to 10 acres in extent should be granted to all of them free of *thara-vila* and *thadivila*.

(3) Large areas of land owned by other communities were left uncultivated. They should be acquired by Government and given to his community, the price being realised from them.

(4) They should be allowed to cultivate the wet lands inside the reserved forests, assessment being imposed only after some years.

(5) Lists of the available lands throughout the State should be furnished to the leaders of his community.

Dewan's reply.—My reply to the Member is the same as the one I gave in respect of Subject No. 11.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-20 P. M.

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